



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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4/1/03

In re Patent Application of

DOENHOFF et al

Atty. Ref.: 687-102

Serial No. 10/020,441

Group: 1645

Filed: December 18, 2001

Examiner: Padmavathi Baskar

For: SCHISTOSOMIASIS VACCINE

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\* \* \* \* \*

March 25, 2003

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

RESPONSE

In response to the Official Action mailed February 26, 2003, the Applicants hereby elect Group I, namely claims 1-9. This election is made with traverse.

It is noted that the composition and method claims which have been divided into Group I and Group II are classed in the same class (class 424). The composition claims and method of treatment claims are related in that the composition claim comprises a recombinant fusion protein capable of eliciting immunity against *Schistosoma* parasites and the method is for treating a mammal to elicit immunity against *Schistosoma* parasites. Since the composition and method are each classed in the same class, even though classified in different sub-classes, it is believed that no undue burden will arise if the

Examiner searches and examines both the compositions and method. In this regard, it is noted that §803 of the MPEP states that:

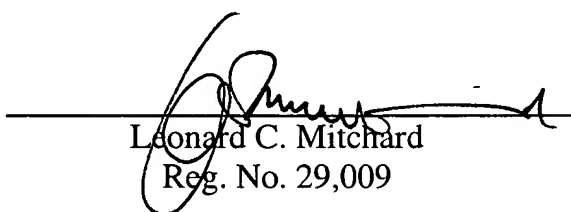
"If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct invention".

In light of the above, it is believed that all of the claims in this application should be searched and examined. Withdrawal of the outstanding restriction requirement and examination of all claims are accordingly respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

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